

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-72. (canceled)

73. (currently amended) A method of providing for selective proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising:

introducing a nucleic acid encoding an altered human inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell; and

exposing the first and second eukaryotic cells *in vivo* or *in vitro* to conditions that inhibit unaltered human IMPDH ~~mammalian-enzyme~~ but to which the altered human IMPDH ~~mammalian-enzyme~~ is resistant;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell which does not contain the altered human IMPDH ~~mammalian-enzyme~~ but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 containing an alanine at amino acid position 190 and a glycine at amino acid position 191.

74. (currently amended) A method of providing for selective proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising:

introducing a nucleic acid encoding an altered human inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell; and

exposing the first and second eukaryotic cells *in vivo* or *in vitro* to conditions that inhibit unaltered human IMPDH ~~mammalian-enzyme~~ but to which the altered human IMPDH ~~mammalian-enzyme~~ is resistant;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell which does not contain the altered human IMPDH ~~mammalian-enzyme~~ but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleotide residues from #48 to #1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3; the sequence of nucleotide residues from #48 to #1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3 containing the sequence of nucleotides TGCAGG at the nucleotide residues from #614-to #619 in SEQ. ID. No. 3; or the sequence of nucleotide residues from #54-to #1595 of SEQ. ID. No. 40.

75-141. (canceled)

142. (previously amended) A method of providing a selective advantage for proliferation of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding an altered inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell; wherein the altered IMPDH is resistant to an inhibitor of purine biosynthesis; and the first eukaryotic cell is a mammalian cell;

contacting the first and second eukaryotic cells to the inhibitor;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell and the second

eukaryotic cell does not contain the altered IMPDH but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 containing an alanine at amino acid position 190 and a glycine at amino acid position 191.

143. (previously amended) A method of providing a selective advantage for proliferation of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising introducing a nucleic acid molecule encoding an altered inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell; wherein the altered IMPDH is resistant to an inhibitor of purine biosynthesis; and the first eukaryotic cell is a mammalian cell;

contacting the first and second eukaryotic cells to the inhibitor;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell and the second eukaryotic cell does not contain the altered IMPDH but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the sequence of nucleotide residues from # 48 to # 1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3; the sequence of nucleotide residues from # 48 to # 1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3 containing the sequence of nucleotides TGCAGG at the nucleotide residues from # 614 to # 619 in SEQ ID. No. 3; or the sequence of nucleotide residues from #54 to # 1595 of SEQ ID. No. 40.

144-218. (canceled)

219. (previously amended) A method of providing for selective proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising:

introducing a nucleic acid encoding an altered human inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell, wherein the first eukaryotic cell is a human cell; and

contacting the first and second eukaryotic cells with an inhibitor to an unaltered human IMPDH but to which the altered human IMPDH is resistant;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell which does not contain the altered human IMPDH but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 containing an alanine at amino acid position 190 and a glycine at amino acid position 191.

220. (previously amended) A method of providing for selective proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising:

introducing a nucleic acid encoding an altered human inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell, wherein the first eukaryotic cell is a human cell; and

contacting the first and second eukaryotic cells with an inhibitor to an unaltered human IMPDH but to which the altered human IMPDH is resistant;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell which does not contain the altered human IMPDH but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleotide residues from #48 to #1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3; the sequence of nucleotide residues from #48 to #1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3 containing the sequence of nucleotides TGCAGG at the nucleotide residues from # 614-619 in SEQ. ID. No. 3; or the sequence of nucleotide residues from #54-1595 of SEQ. ID. NO. 40.

221-233. (canceled)

234. (previously amended) A method of providing for selective proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising:

introducing a nucleic acid encoding an altered human inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell; and

contacting the first and second eukaryotic cells with an inhibitor to an unaltered human IMPDH but to which the altered human IMPDH is resistant;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell which does not contain the altered human IMPDH but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 containing an alanine at amino acid position 190 and a glycine at amino acid position 191.

235. (previously amended) A method of providing for selective proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising:

introducing a nucleic acid encoding an altered human inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell; and

contacting the first and second eukaryotic cells with an inhibitor to an unaltered human IMPDH but to which the altered human IMPDH is resistant;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell which does not contain the altered human IMPDH but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleotide residues from #48 to #1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3; the sequence of nucleotide residues from #48 to #1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3 containing the sequence of nucleotides TGCAGG at the nucleotide residues from # 614 to #619 in SEQ. ID. No. 3; or the sequence of nucleotide residues from #54 to #1595 of SEQ. ID. No. 40.

236-247. (canceled)

248. (previously amended) A method of providing for selective proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising:

introducing a nucleic acid encoding an altered human inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell, wherein the first eukaryotic cell is a mammalian cell; and

contacting the first and second eukaryotic cells with an inhibitor to an unaltered mammalian IMPDH but to which the altered IMPDH is resistant;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell which does not contain the altered mammalian IMPDH but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 or the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4 containing an alanine at amino acid position 190 and a glycine at amino acid position 191.

249. (previously amended) A method of providing for selective proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability of a first eukaryotic cell relative to a second eukaryotic cell, comprising:

introducing a nucleic acid encoding an altered human inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) into the first eukaryotic cell, wherein the first eukaryotic cell is a mammalian cell; and

contacting the first and second eukaryotic cells with an inhibitor to an unaltered mammalian IMPDH but to which the altered IMPDH is resistant;

whereby the first eukaryotic cell exhibits greater proliferation, viability or proliferation and viability relative to the second eukaryotic cell which does not contain

the altered mammalian IMPDH but is otherwise substantially identical or similar to the first eukaryotic cell; and

wherein the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleotide residues from #48 to #1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3; the sequence of nucleotide residues from #48 to #1589 in SEQ. ID. NO. 3 containing the sequence of nucleotides TGCAGG at the nucleotide residues from # 614 to #619 in SEQ. ID. No. 3; or the sequence of nucleotide residues from #54 to #1595 of SEQ. ID. No. 40.

250-285. (canceled)